TREASURY DEPARTMENT

For release morning papers,
Friday, April 1, 1921.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY MELLON.

The Treasury has begun the retirement of the special Treasury certificates of indebtedness issued to secure Federal Reserve Bank notes under the Pittman Act approved April 23, 1918. Pittman Act certificates to the amount of $5,000,000 were retired on February 28, 1921, out of the general fund and $5,000,000 additional were similarly retired on March 29th. The Treasury expects to continue to retire Pittman Act certificates not required to secure issues of Federal Reserve Bank notes at the rate of about $5,000,000 per month. Pursuant to the terms of the Pittman Act, the Treasury is also coining into standard silver dollars the silver bullion purchased under the Act. Silver certificates will be issued in regular course against the standard silver dollars so coined and Federal Reserve Bank notes and Pittman Act certificates pledged to secure them will be retired in corresponding amounts. Pittman Act certificates to the amount of $2,000,000 have been retired up to March 31, 1921, as the result of the coinage of standard silver dollars. This means that the total amount of Pittman Act certificates outstanding has been reduced from $259,375,000 on December 31, 1920, to $247,375,000 on March 31, 1921.